

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 20, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14-16, 18 and 19 were rejected. Claims 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 8, 10, 13 and 16 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claims 6, 11, 12 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 14-16, 18 and 19 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,631, 442 issued to Steven M. Blumenau ("Blumenau").

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau in view of U.S. Patent 5,208,811 issued to Jiro Kashio et al. ("Kashio et al.") and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,697,875 issued to Rodger P. Wilson ("Wilson"). Claims 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau in view of Kashio et al.

Applicants submit that Independent Claims 1, 8, 10 and 16 have been amended to include subject matter that Examiner has indicated would place the Claims in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to Claims 1, 8, 10 and 16 and Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 13-16 and 18-20 which depend therefrom.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8, 10 and 16 to

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overcome these rejections and respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claims 1, 8, 10, and 16 as amended.

CONCLUSION

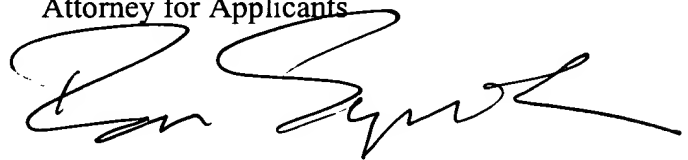
Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of remaining Claims 1-20 as amended.

Applicants enclosed a check in the amount of \$86.00 for adding one independent claim. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2548.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



Brian E. Szymczak
Reg. No. 47,120

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Baker Botts L.L.P.

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **23640**
512.322.2548
512.322.8340 (fax)

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